Health insurance scheme for CGHS beneficiaries

3475. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:
MS. MABEL REBELLO:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are going to launch Health Insurance Scheme (HIS) for the beneficiaries of CGHS;

(b) if so, the details of the scheme;

(c) whether Government will discontinue the CGHS or it will be linked with the insurance schemes;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) how far health insurance scheme will ease undue financial burden on the exchequer, bring quality health facilities to the employees and control corruption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The feasibility of introducing a health insurance scheme for Central Government servants and pensioners is being explored which has not yet been finalized.

(b) to (e) In view of (a) above, question does not arise.

Brain fever

3476. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN:
SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that brain fever is spreading in the country particularly in Delhi and Northern India;

(b) how many cases of brain fever have been reported in the Capital of Delhi and other parts of the country in the last three months; and

(c) what is Government's preparedness to deal with the situation and take up the matter on priority basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) As per the data provided by National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD), 213 cases from Delhi and 73 cases from the adjoining areas of Delhi due to brain fever (Meningococcal Diseases) have been reported during the period from 1st January 2008 to 21st April 2008.

During the corresponding period of 2006 and 2007, 731 and 279 cases respectively were reported.

Besides these, the State of Meghalaya has also reported 269 cases due to Meningococcal Disease from 26th March, 2008 to 21st April, 2008.

(c) In the wake of reporting of meningococcal disease in Delhi and surrounding areas in National Capital Region (NCR), the Expert Group in the Ministry of Health and Family

Welfare is reviewing the situation on continuous basis. All the major hospitals are fully equipped to manage the cases of this illness, having sufficient stock of medicines and laboratory reagents. All the hospitals have been directed to ensure regular and timely reported of cases to Municipal Corporation of Delhi (MCD), which has been identified as the nodal agency to coordinate all the activities.

MCD has undertaken extensive Information, Education and Communication (IEC) measures. Chemoprohhylaxis is being given to high-risk personnel such as health care/ laboratory worker and close contacts of the cases. A central team has investigated and provided technical support for containment of the outbreak of meningococcal disease in Meghalaya state during 4th-11th April 2008.

Epidemiological analysis of the relevant data is being carried out by NICD which also provides technical guidelines to States in the neighborhood of Delhi alongwith State of Meghalaya to prevent and control meningococcal diseases, including training and laboratory support to hospitals. NICD has also sent CD Alert on the Meningococcal disease to MCD for circulation to all the reporting units which includes case definition, clinical profile management of cases, prevention and control measures for outbreaks.

Pan-India survey on counterfeit drugs

3477. SHRI AMAR SINGH:
SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has launched a Pan-India survey to ascertain the extent of counterfeit drugs produced in our country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government has since collected the information in this regard and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) what action Government proposes to take against the producers and suppliers of such drugs which have caused immense harm to the patients?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) It has been decided to carry out a survey to assess the extent of spurious drugs in the country on the basis of statistical principles as suggested by Indian Statistical Institute, Hyderabad.

(d) The Government has taken various measures including steps to further amend the penal provisions already prescribed under Drugs & Cosmetics Act to make the punishment more stringent which will make the law deterrent to the offenders involved in the manufacture or sale of spurious drugs.

National mental health programme

3478. SHRI ABU ASIM AZMI: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government proposes to review the contents of the National Mental Health Programme;